

SENATE BILL 1350

By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
relative to umbilical cord blood.

WHEREAS, umbilical cord blood is a unique source of large numbers of young,
undifferentiated stem cells; and

WHEREAS, umbilical cord blood is being used for the treatment of life-threatening
illnesses and debilitating conditions and is being studied for its potential in the treatment of
many disorders; and

WHEREAS, umbilical cord blood can provide hope for patients and advance the science
of stem cell research while posing no health risk to either a mother or her newborn infant; and

WHEREAS, umbilical cord blood can be easily collected and cost-effectively stored for
medical and research use; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 32, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section thereto:

68-32-106.

(a) All licensed hospitals and birthing centers shall offer a pregnant patient the
option to donate, to a publicly accessible certified cord blood bank, blood extracted from
the umbilical cord following the delivery of a newborn child if the donation can be made
at no expense to the patient or hospital for collection or storage.

(b) Nothing in this section obligates a hospital to collect umbilical cord blood if, in
the professional judgment of a physician licensed to practice medicine or a nurse, the
collection would threaten the health of the mother or child.

(c) Nothing in this section imposes a requirement upon any hospital employee,
physician, nurse, or hospital that is directly affiliated with a bona fide religious

denomination that includes as an integral part of its beliefs and practices the tenet that blood transfer is contrary to the moral principals the denomination considers to be an essential part of its beliefs.

(d) The department of health shall make the maximization of umbilical cord blood donations a public health goal. All licensed hospitals and birthing centers shall cooperate with the department of health in implementing this goal of increasing donations of umbilical cord blood.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.